

## REGIONAL YOUTH FORUM FOLLOW-UP

### IMPROVING PROGRAM PERFORMANCE WHILE SERVING THE NEEDIEST YOUTH

A concern raised during the Regional Youth Forums was with ETA's new focus on serving the neediest youth, a more difficult population to achieve successful outcomes for, how will states be able to both achieve performance goals and serve this difficult to serve population. ETA believes it is possible to achieve successful outcomes while serving the neediest youth population and encourages states to develop innovative practices for serving the neediest youth that will result in improved program performance for this population. In addition, ETA has taken action in two areas to assist states with this issue.

ETA recognizes that achieving outcomes as high as in the past may be difficult if States do serve a greater percentage of the neediest youth. Therefore, when negotiating expected levels of performance states should take into account the percentage of neediest youth they will serve in comparison to prior years and how serving this greater percentage will impact performance. ETA has included the following language related to this issue in TEGL 27-04, Negotiating Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Title 1B Performance Goals for Program Years (PY) 2005 and 2006:

"When negotiating the youth goals, states should be aware that ETA's new strategic vision for youth services includes a focus on serving the neediest youth, especially out-of-school youth including youth in foster care, youth in the juvenile justice system, children of incarcerated parents, and migrant youth, as well as youth with disabilities. States that transition to serving a higher percentage of these more difficult-to-serve populations may not be able to achieve performance levels as high as in the past. Therefore, when proposing expected levels of performance states should take into account the populations being served since serving a greater percentage of the neediest youth has the potential to impact outcomes. If states plan to serve a greater percentage of the neediest youth, they should provide data that shows how outcomes are impacted by serving this population."

In addition, to addressing this issue during the negotiation process, ETA has also made changes to the performance system to support serving the neediest youth. In TEGL 28-04 Common Measures Policy, ETA has included a new "planned gap in service" policy that states a temporary move from the area that prevents the individual from participating in services will allow putting a youth in a "hold" status until they return to the area. In addition, ETA has included a new measurement exclusion called relocated to a mandated residential program where a participant would be excluded from the youth measures if the participant is in the foster care system or any other mandated residential program and has moved from the area as part of such a program. These new measurement policies will take effect July 1, 2005 and have eliminated many of the performance measures negative unintended consequences that could prevent areas from serving the neediest youth.